BEHAVIORS THAT RESULT IN UNINTENTIONAL AND INTENTIONAL INJURIES

PERSONAL SAFETY

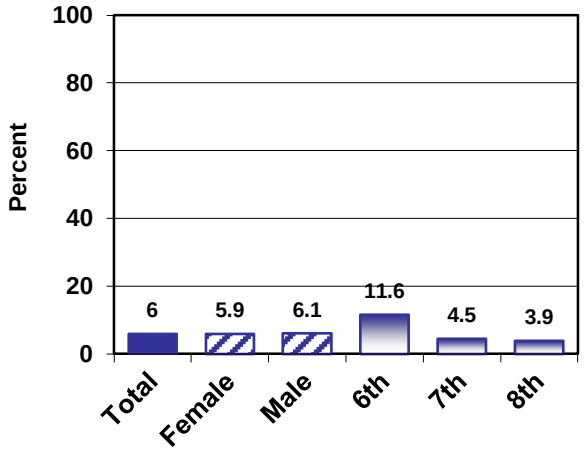
Behaviors and perceptions related to personal safety were the topic of a number of questions on both the middle school survey and the high school survey. Some of these questions measured the frequency with which students engage in behaviors related to unintentional injuries such as not wearing seat belts or helmets and riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol. When lap/shoulder belts are used properly, for example, they reduce the risk of fatal injury to front-seat occupants riding in passenger vehicles by 45% and the risk of moderate-to-critical injuries by 50%.[1] Similarly, bicycle helmets offer bicyclists the best protection from head injuries during bicycle-related crashes.[2] In 2009, 10% of high school students nationwide reported that they had driven when they had been drinking alcohol, and 28% of high school students reported riding in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the 30 days preceding the survey. During 1991-2009, a significant linear decrease occurred nationwide in the percentage of students who rode with a driver who had been drinking alcohol (40%-29%).[3]

The personal safety questions also dealt with how often students feel safe and accepted, whether they had missed school because of safety concerns, and if they had ever belonged to a gang or perceived gang activity at their school.

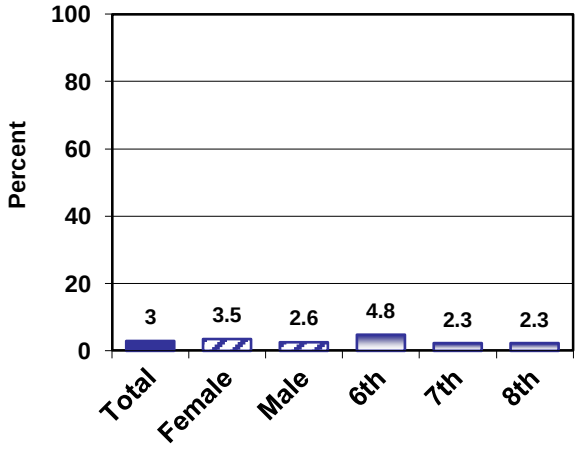
Response to the survey items that measure the frequency with which Nevada students engage in behaviors related to unintentional injuries and students' perceptions regarding their personal safety and support systems is summarized below.

Percentage of middle school students who always wear a helmet when they ride a bicycle (Q8) or when they rollerblade or ride a skateboard (Q9).

Middle School - Q9

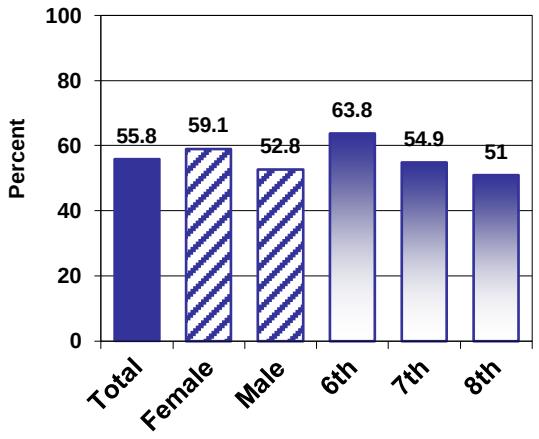


Middle School - 10

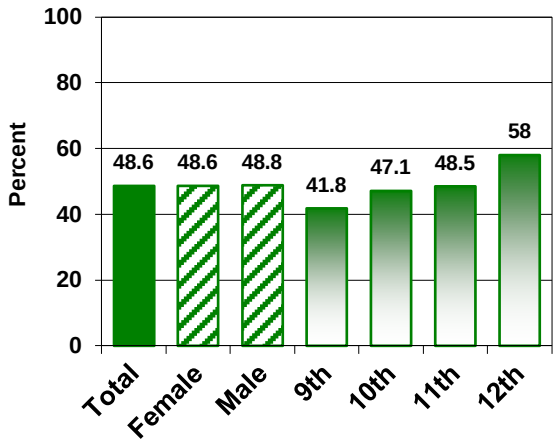


Percentage of students who always wear a seatbelt when riding in a car:

Middle School - Q11

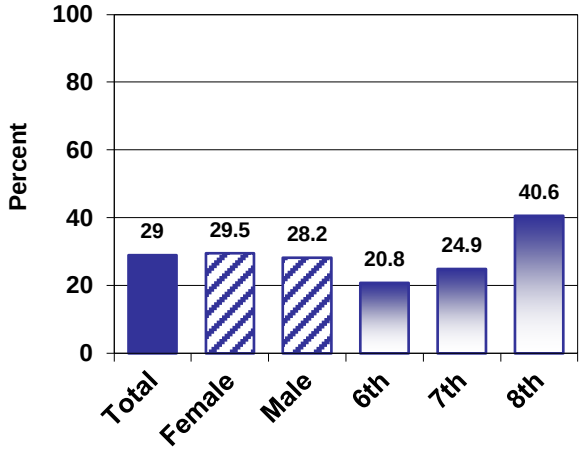


High School - Q8

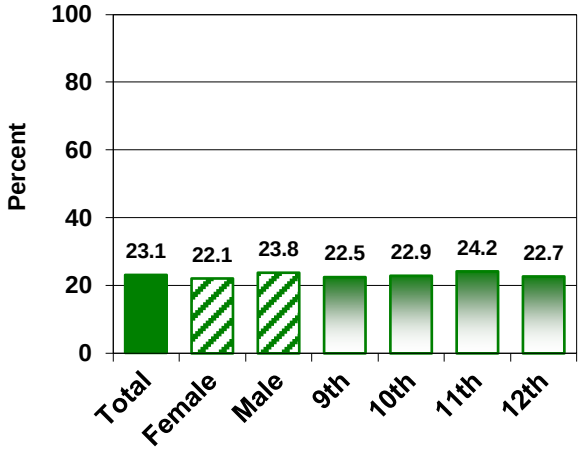


Percentage of students who ever (MS) or during the past 30 days (HS) rode 1 or more times in a car or other vehicle driven by someone who had been drinking alcohol:

Middle School - Q12

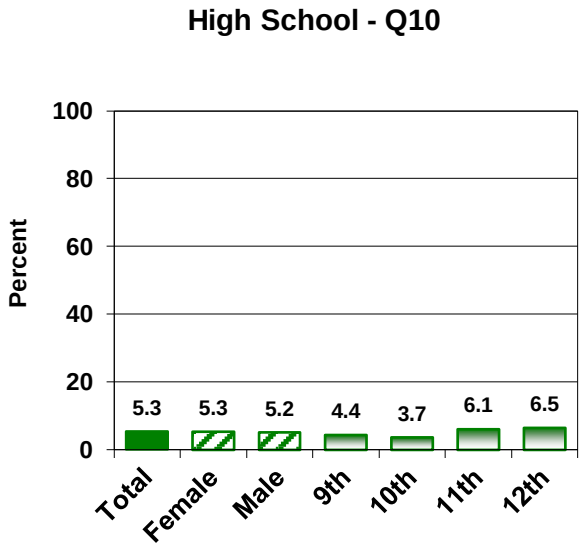


High School - Q9

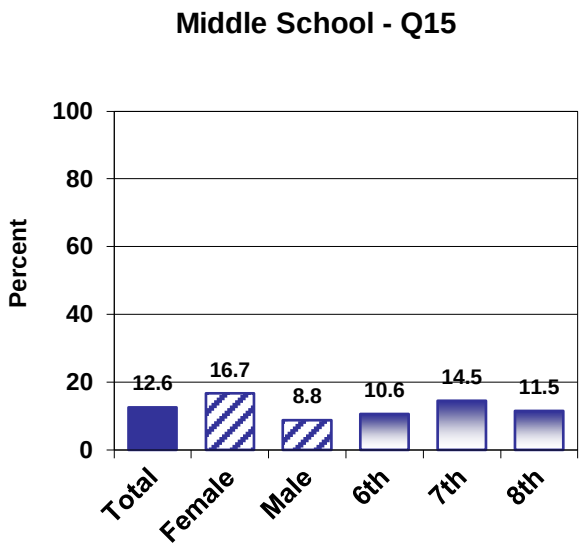


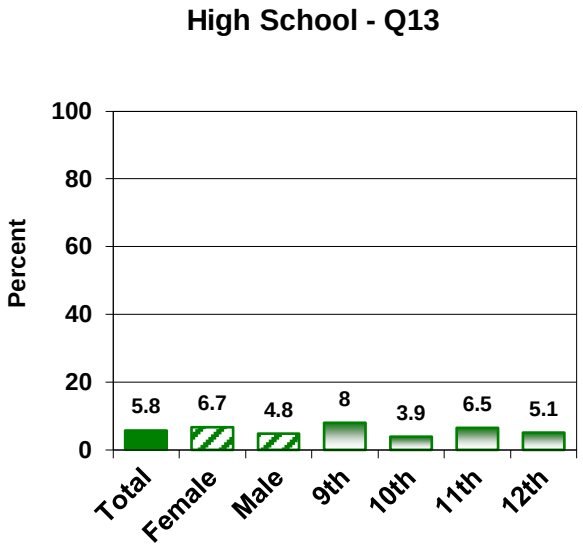
Percentage of students who during the past 30 days drove a car or other vehicle one or more times when they had been drinking alcohol:

23.6% of 12th grade males report driving when they have been drinking alcohol compared with 10.5% of high school students in general.
U.S. YRBS 2007



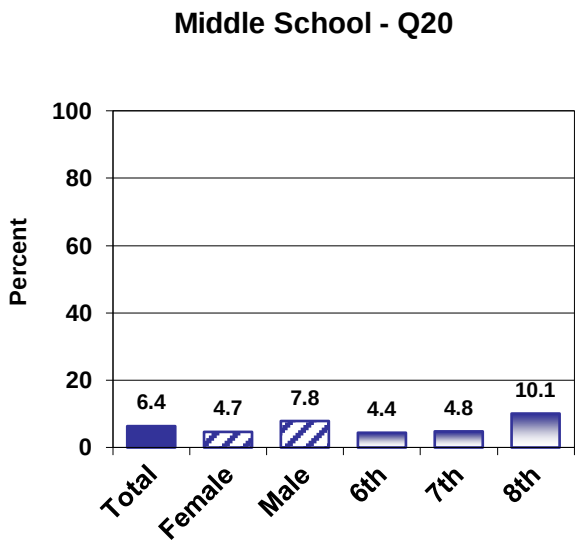
Percentage of students who did not go to school on one or more of the past 30 days because they felt they would be unsafe at school or on their way to or from school:

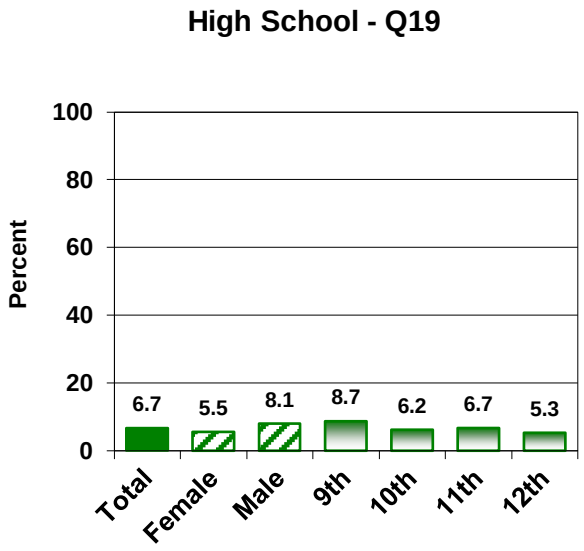




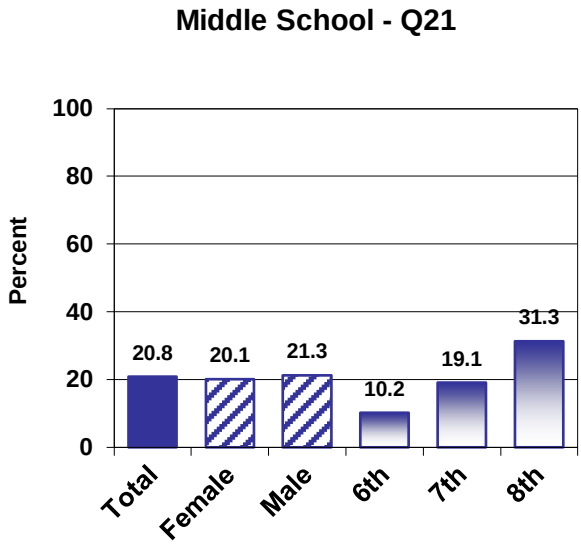
2011 Nevada YRBS

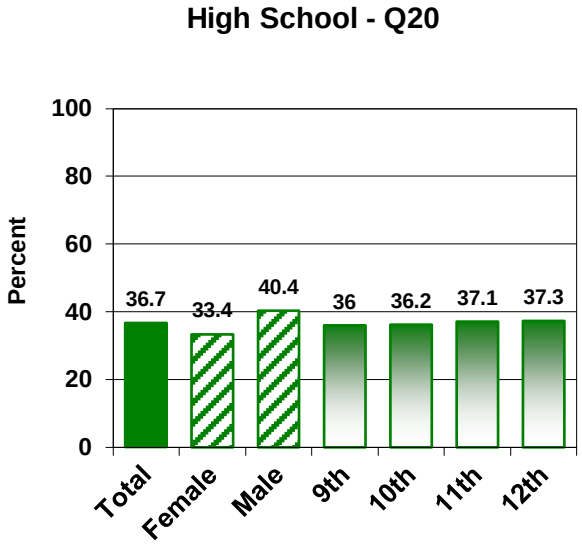
Percentage of students who have been a member of a gang in the past 12 months:



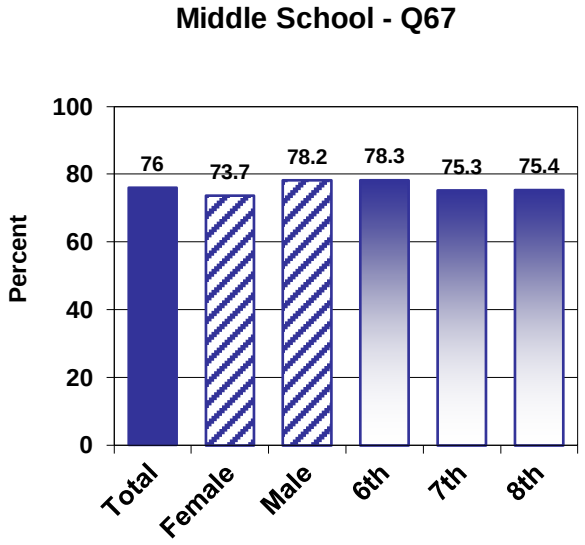


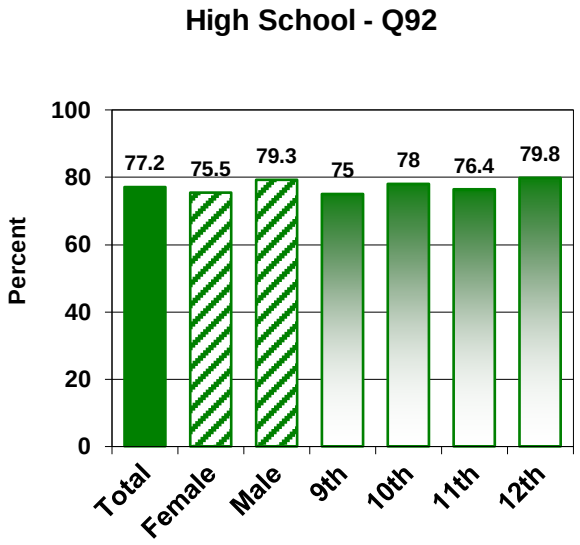
Percentage of students who believe there is gang activity in their school:



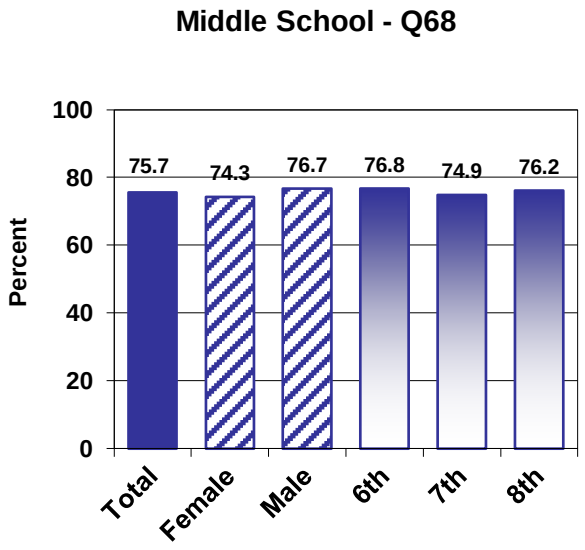


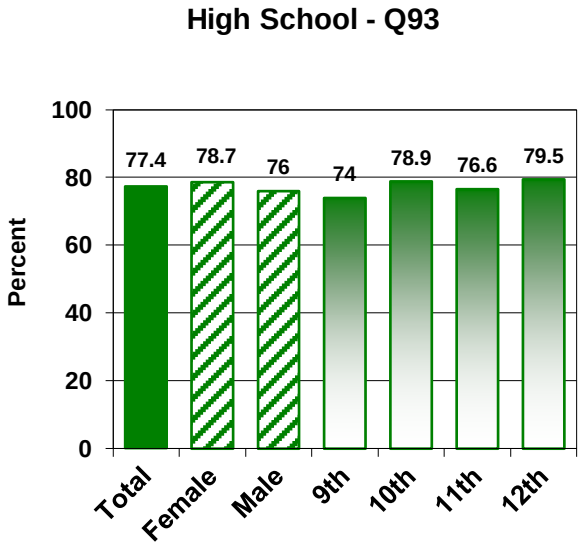
Percentage of students who feel safe and secure in their neighborhood all or most of the time:





Percentage of students who feel safe and secure at school all or most of the time:

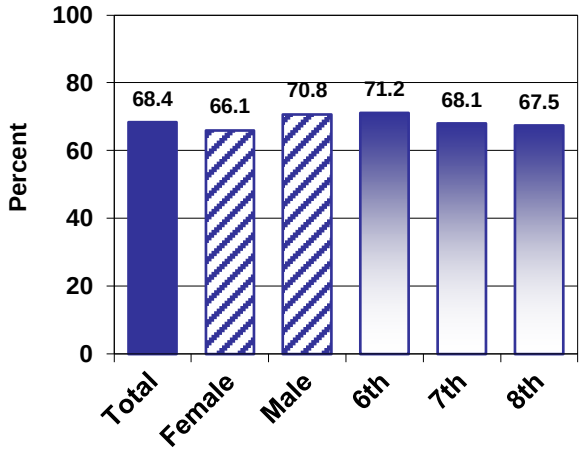




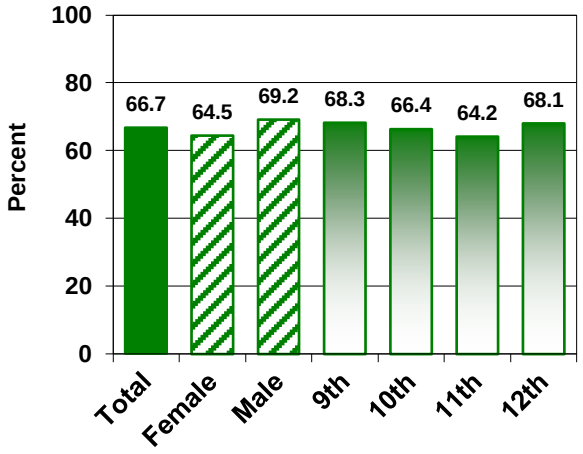
2011 Nevada YRBS

Percentage of students who feel that they are accepted at school all or most of the time (MS) agree or strongly agree that they belong at their school (HS):

Middle School - Q69

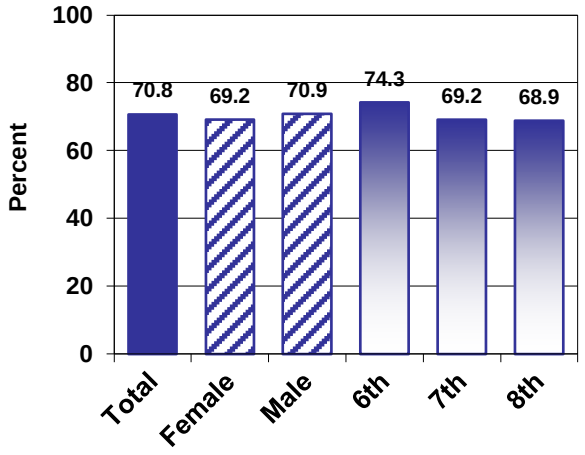


High School - Q95

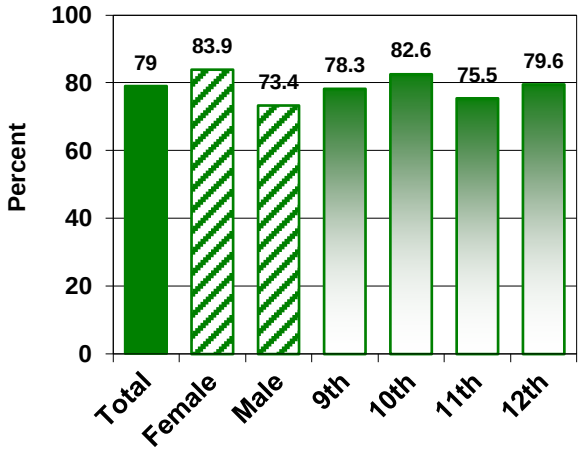


Percentage of students whose parents or other adults in their family ask where they are going or with whom they will be always or most of the time:

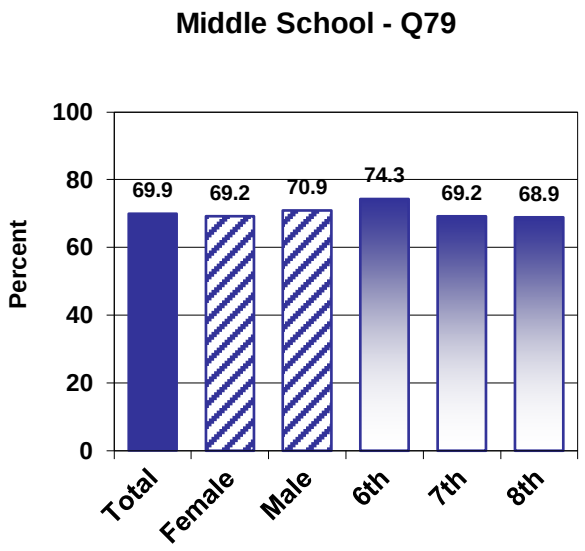
Middle School - Q66

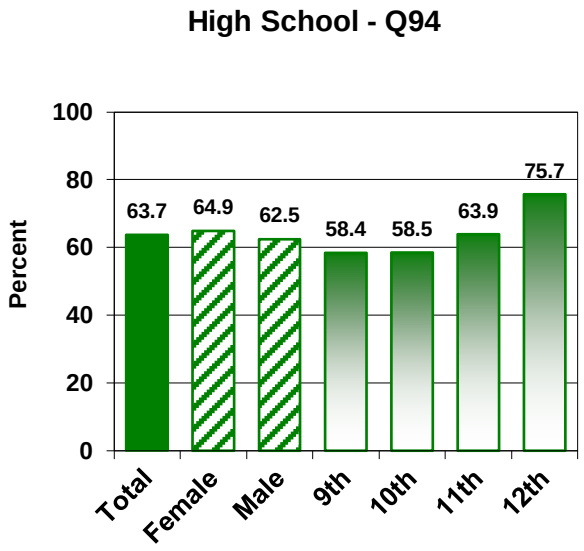


High School - Q90



Percentage of students who report that there is at least one teacher or other adult at their school that they can talk to if they have a problem:





VIOLENCE-RELATED BEHAVIORS

Homicide is the second leading cause of death among young people age 15-19 and the leading cause of death among African-Americans in this age group.[4] In 2007, 84 percent of homicide victims 15 to 19 years old were killed with firearms.[4] Firearms intensify violence and increase the likelihood of fatality in a conflict.[5]

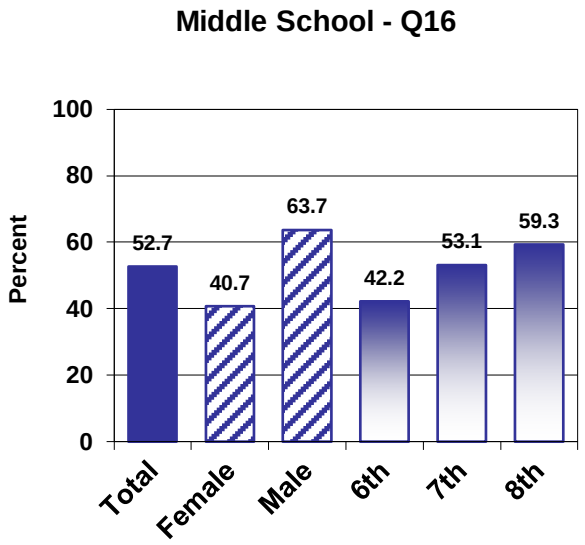
Nonfatal violence, i.e., fighting, often precedes fatal violence among young persons.[6] Physical fighting is a marker for other problem behaviors[7] and is associated with serious injury-related health outcomes.[8,9] Among high school students nationwide in 2009, 31% had been in a physical fight and 11% had been in a physical fight on school property one or more times in the 12 months preceding the survey. [3]

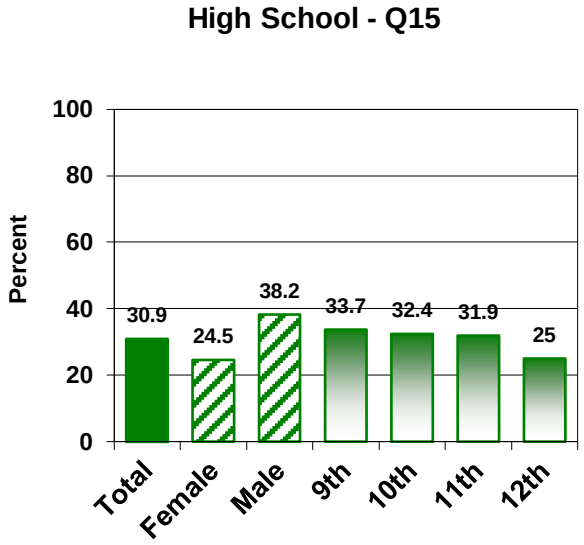
Intimate partner abuse victimization is associated with participation in other high risk behaviors.[10] 2007 YRBS results show that 10% of high school students nationwide had been hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the 12 months preceding the survey, and 7% of high school students reported that they had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to.[3]

Bullying victimization is associated with depression, suicidal ideation,[11] school absenteeism, and feeling unsafe at school.[12] Electronic bullying victimization has been associated with discipline problems in school, skipping school, weapon carrying,[13] and social anxiety[14]

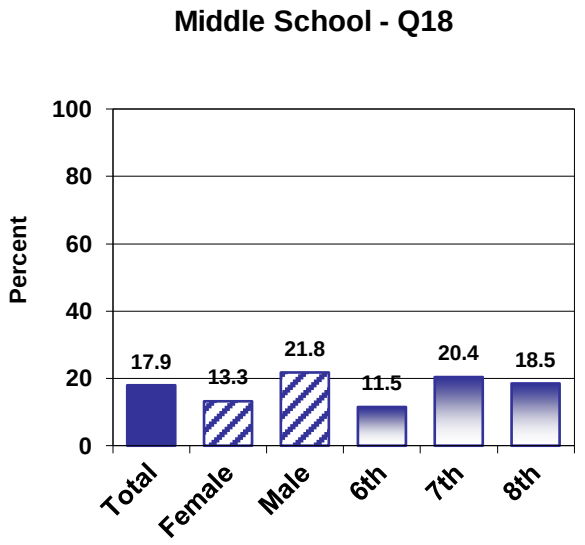
Response to the survey items that measure the frequency with which Nevada students engage in violence-related behaviors or are the victims of violence is shown on the following pages.

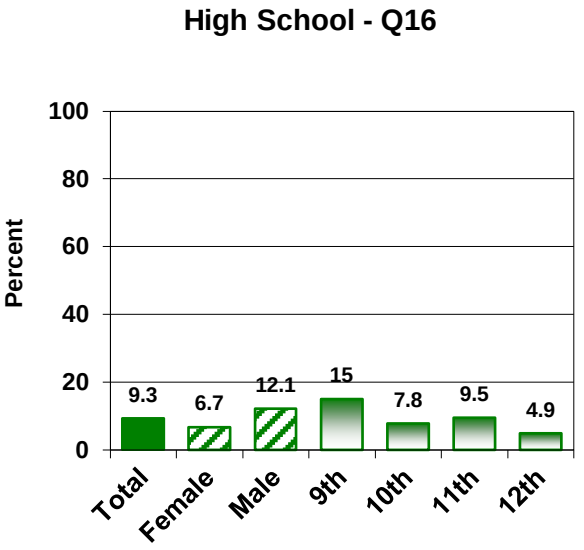
Percentage of students who were ever in a physical fight (MS) or in a physical fight one or more times during the past 12 months (HS):



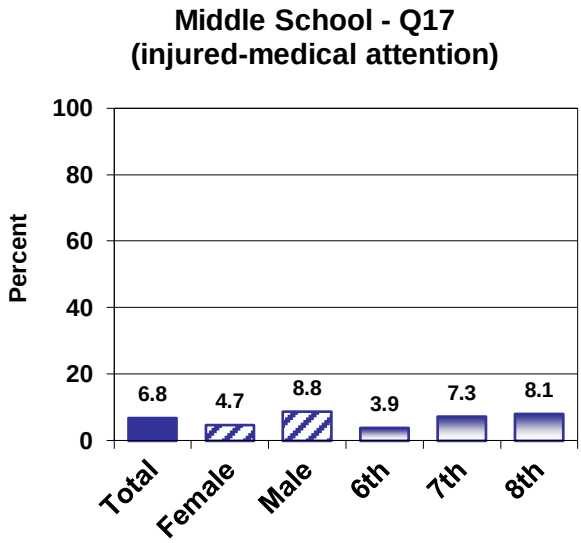


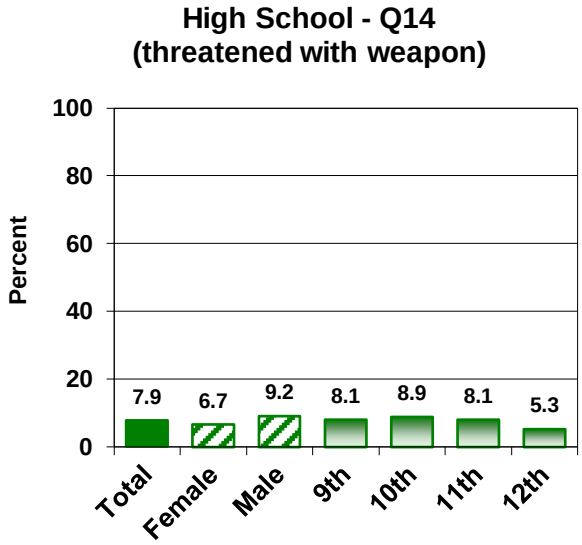
Percentage of students who were in a physical fight on school property one or more times during the past 12 months:



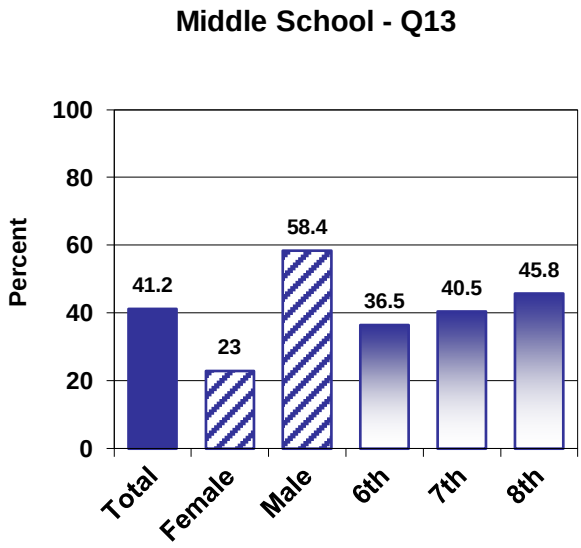


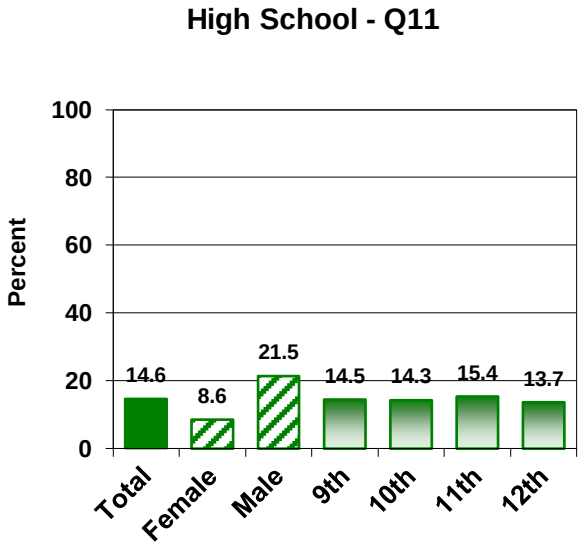
Percentage of middle school students who were ever in a physical fight in which they were hurt and had to be treated by a doctor or nurse and percentage of high school students who were threatened or injured with a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club on school property one or more times during the past 12 months:





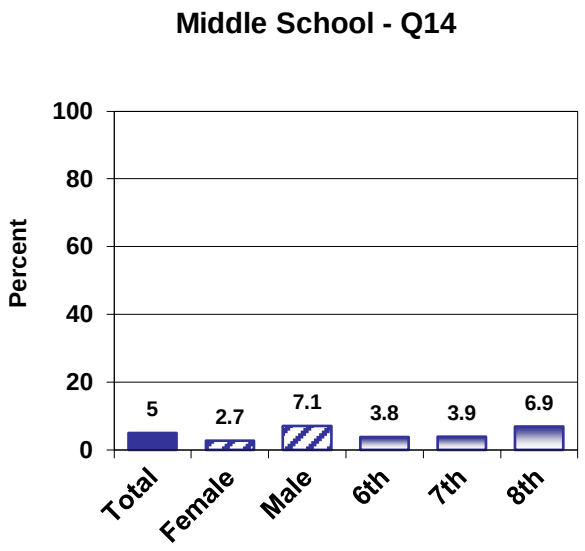
Percentage of students who ever carried a weapon such as a gun, knife, or club (MS) or carried such a weapon on one or more of the past 30 days (HS):

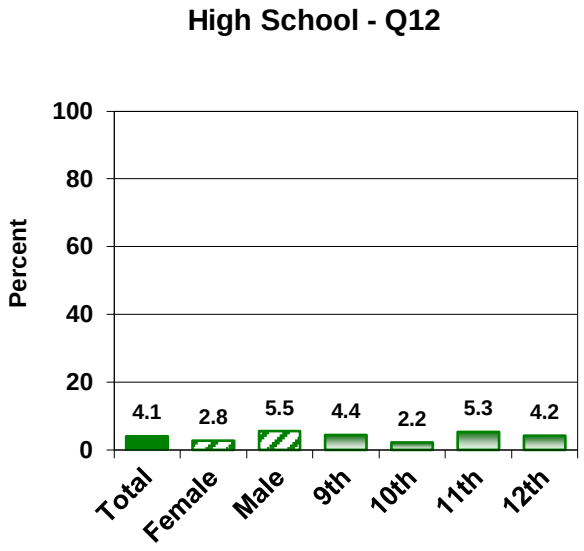




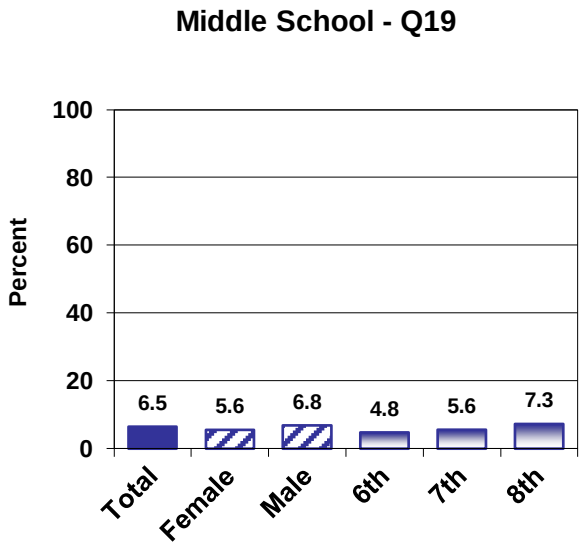
2011 Nevada YRBS

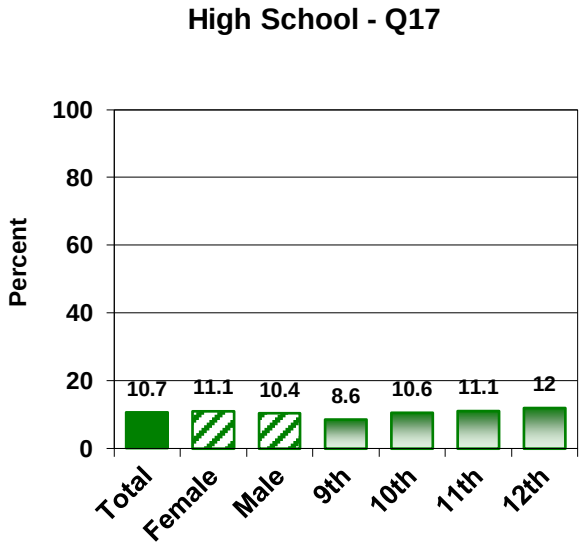
Percentage of students who carried a weapon on school property on one or more of the past 30 days:



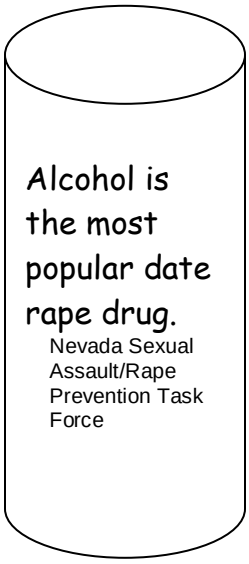


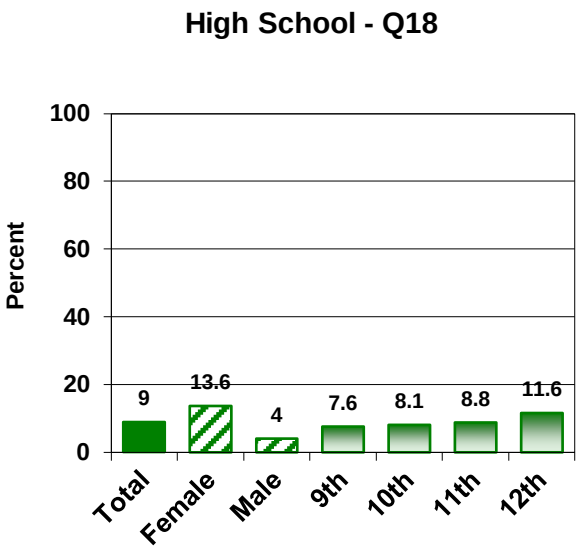
Percentage of students who were ever hit, slapped, or physically hurt on purpose by their boyfriend or girlfriend during the past 12 months:



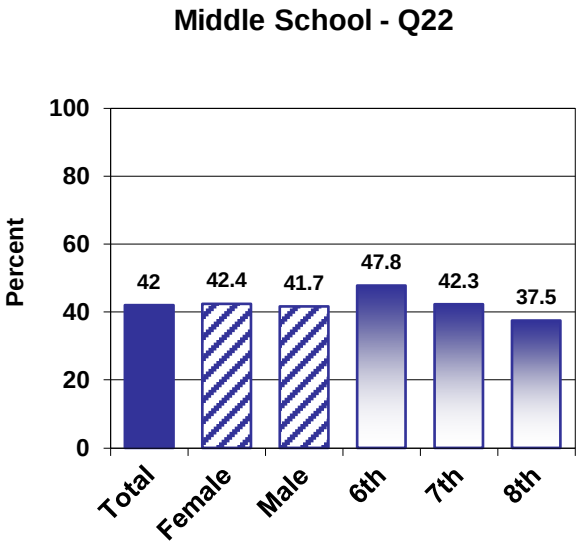


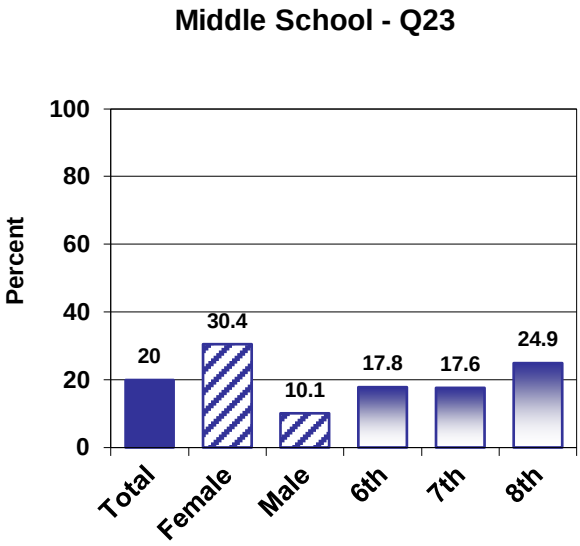
Percentage of students who have ever been forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to:





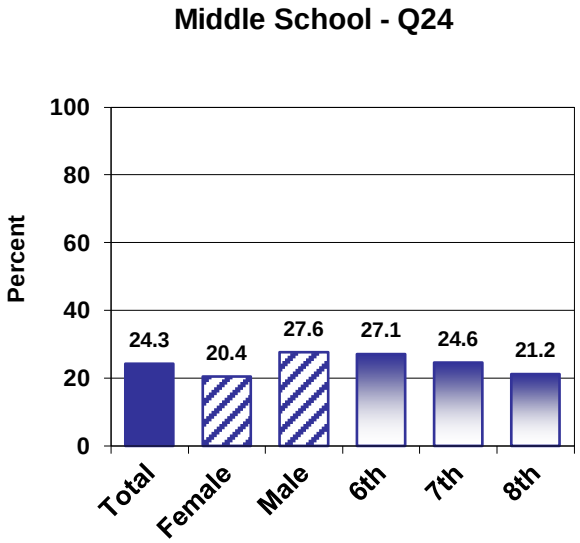
Percentage of middle school students who were ever bullied on school property (Q22) or ever electronically bullied through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or texting (Q23):





2011 Nevada YRBS

Percentage of students who were the victim of teasing or name calling because of their racial or ethnic background in the past 12 months:



In 2009, 26.3% of Nevada high school students reported that in the previous year they had been the victim of teasing or name calling because of their racial or ethnic background.
2009 Nevada YRBS

SUICIDE

Nationally, suicide is the third leading cause of death among youth aged 15-19.[4] In 2006, the suicide rate for persons aged 15-19 was 7.1 per 100,000, down from a high of 8.2 per 100,000 in 2003.[4] Attempted suicide is also considered a lethal health event, for it is a proven risk factor for future completed suicide and a potential indicator of other health problems such as substance abuse and depression.[15] Nationally, in 2009, 14% of high school students had seriously considered attempting suicide, 11% had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, and 6% had actually attempted suicide one or more times in the 12 months preceding the YRBS. The percentage of high school students who seriously considered attempting suicide has decreased from 29% in 1991 to 14% in 2009.[3]

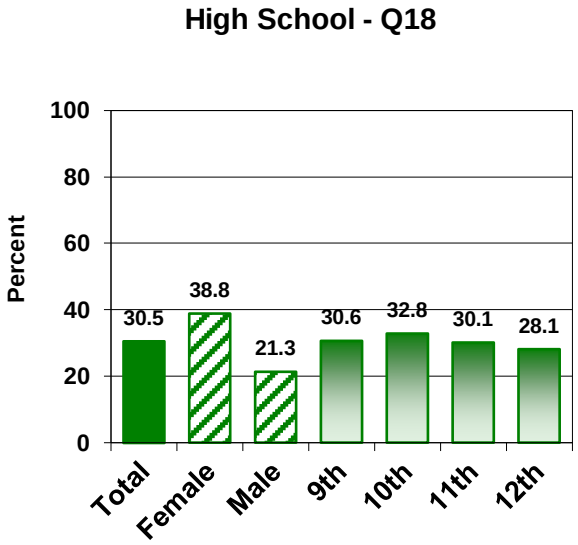
Nevada's suicide rate for youth aged 15-19 continues to be among the highest in the country.[16] In 2009, 18 percent of Nevada high school students had seriously considered attempting suicide, 14.3 percent had made a plan about how they would attempt suicide, and 10.2 percent had actually attempted suicide.[17]

Response to the survey items that measure prolonged sadness, suicide ideation, attempted suicide, and the seriousness of those attempts is summarized on the following page.

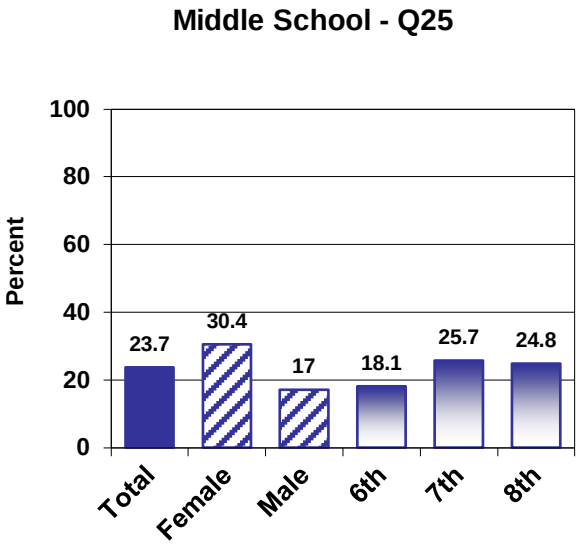
Percentage of students who ever felt so sad and hopeless almost every day for two weeks or more in a row that they stopped doing some usual activities during the past 12 months:

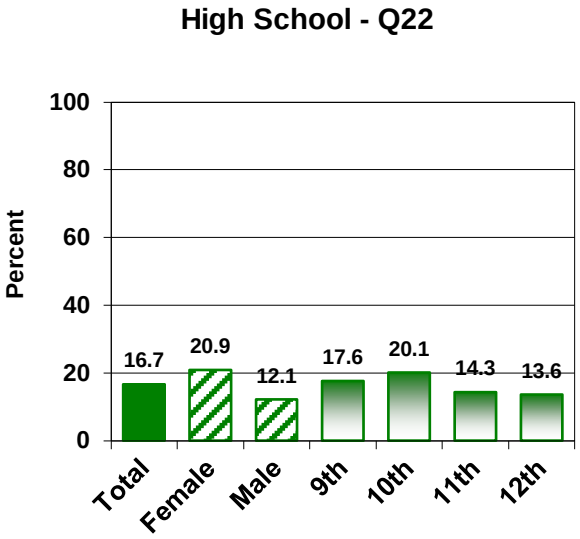
Nationally, more than 1 in 4 high school students (26%) report having experienced prolonged sadness in the past 12 months.

U.S. YRBS 2009



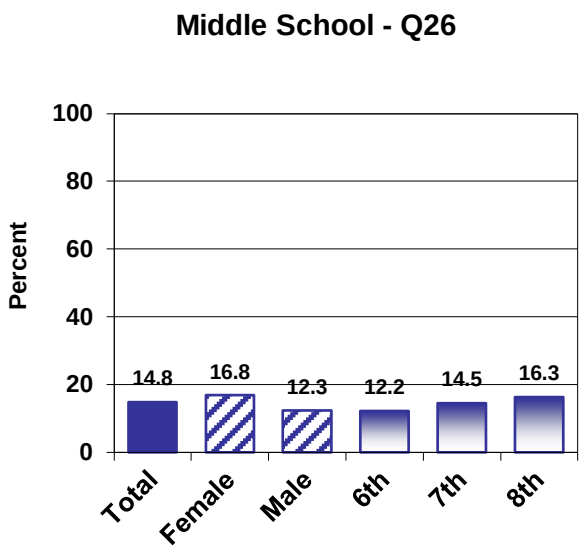
Percentage of students who ever seriously thought about killing themselves (MS) or seriously considered attempting suicide during the past 12 months (HS):

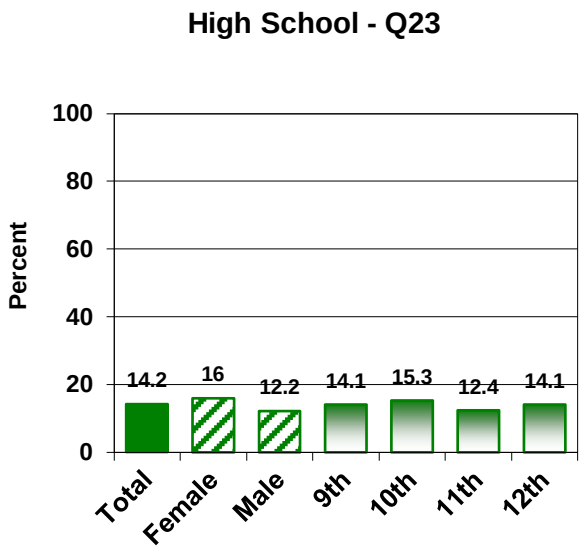




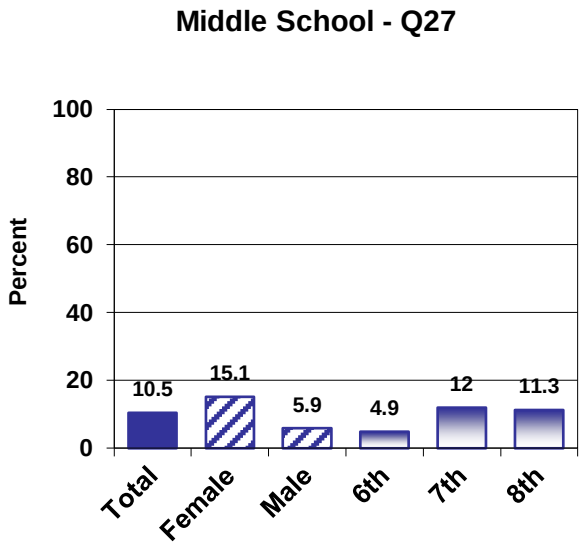
2011 Nevada YRBS

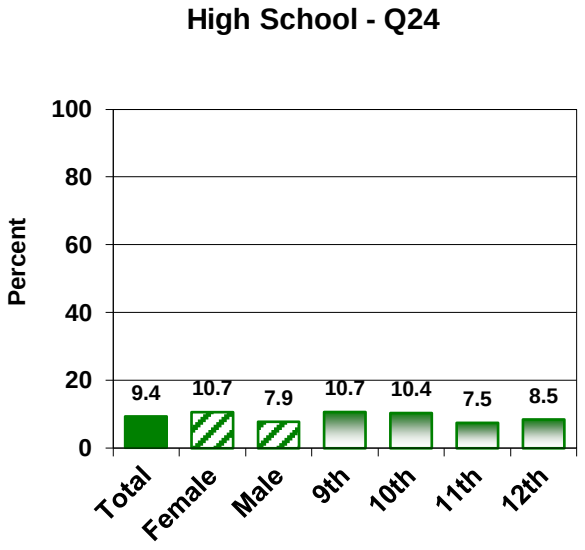
Percentage of students who ever made a plan about how they would kill themselves (MS) or made a plan during the past 12 months about how they would attempt suicide (HS):





Percentage of students who ever tried to kill themselves (MS) or actually attempted suicide one or more times during the past 12 months (HS):

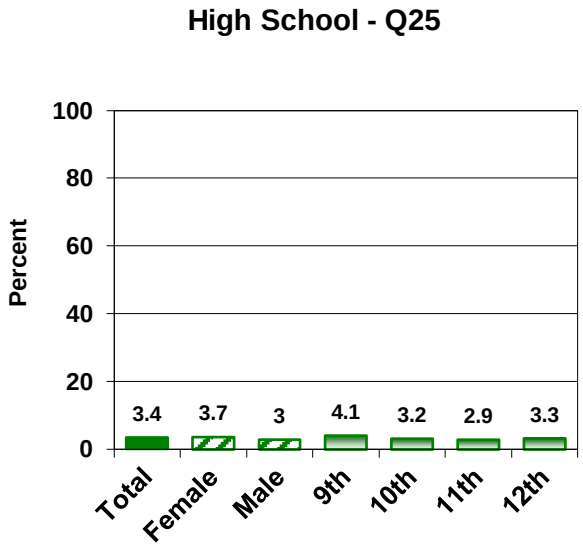




Percentage of students who made a suicide attempt during the past 12 months that resulted in an injury, poisoning, or overdose that had to be treated by a doctor or a nurse:

Females more often attempt suicide (3:1); males are more often successful (4:1).

U.S. Dept. of Health & Human Service, National Institute of Mental Health, March 2002



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